

## Knowing God Through the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation

### *Personal Story from READI message*

*3 min*

### **Ephesians 1:15-17**

**15** This is why, since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, **16** I never stop giving thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. **17** I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.

### *Prayer*

- Paul weaves in and out of prayer to praise and then to the promises of God. From teaching to exhortation to rebuke.
- Last week Billy finished up the first 14 verses of chapter one, and that whole section is the incredibly rich, dense, beautiful passage that in the original language was just one big run on sentence of praise and poetry.
  - It is the most Christocentric passage of scripture in the whole NT.
  - And contained within those 14 verse of **praise**, are ALSO some of the most foundational and critical **promises** and truths about our identity as children of God — our identity **as Kingdom Kids** — an identity that is found exclusively in Jesus.
- In verses 15-16 he moves from praise about God, to praise about the church:
  - And then in vs. 17 he moves into a prayer that will go through verse 19.
  - Today: vs. 17

### **Vs.17**

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.

Paul is praying that God would GIVE something to the church in Ephesus. And this is where the prayer starts — a request for a gift, if you will. And whenever there is a gift, there is a giver.

**THE GIVER:** The Glorious Father.

- **Vs. 17**
- “I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the **glorious Father**, would give you...”
- The Kingdom of God looks like family.
- And just like every family starts with Father, so does the Family of God. And this is where Paul’s prayer starts, with our Father.

- **And what kind of Father is He?**
  - 1 John 4 that He is a Father of Love.
  - It doesn't just say that God is lovING; but that He IS LOVE.
  - Love is the core essence of who God is, and in turn what He does and how he relates to Him people.
    - **John 3:16** - It is because of **His love** that sent his son.
    - **Hebrews 12:16** - It is because of His love that he even disciplines us
    - **John 11**- It is because of his love that He even made Mary and Martha WAIT for Him, which, which means that even when God says “No” it is because of his LOVE.
- **Everything that God does in your life, and everything God chooses NOT to do in your life, He does from a foundation of love.**
- And Paul knows this kind of love. Paul will pray in chapter 3 that God would send the Holy Spirit to move in people's lives so they would begin to have **personal experiential knowledge of this love**, the kind of love that Paul himself experienced from the first moment he met Jesus.
  - But secondly, He uses this word “Glorious” to describe the Father. **“I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father,** or some translations say “Father of Glory”.
- And it's so appropriate. Paul just finished talking about this unbelievable work that the Father has accomplished through his Son in the first 14 verses. If you can imagine it, it almost as if he's coming off of this Holy Spirit high where He is just caught up in the glory of who God is and who He's made us to be...
- Then you see his cadence beginning to change in vs. 15 in the original language, as he starts using punctuation again — it appears that he slows down, and here he's like “YES! The glory of God — the splendor; the beauty; the magnificence; the awe-inspiring glorious Father. YES! That's the one I'm praying to here:
- **Glorious Father**, would you give to the church... a gift. What is the Gift?

## **THE GIFT : The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation**

- **Vs. 17:**
- **“I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation...”**
- Who is the Spirit of wisdom and revelation?
  - **The Holy Spirit** is the Spirit of wisdom and revelation. It's another title for who He is.
- How do we know he is the Holy Spirit?
- In Pauls previous breath He was just talking about how we were SEALED with the Holy Spirit, and how the Holy Spirit is our guarantee of our inheritance, and so he just continues on here talking about the Holy Spirit.
- And “The Spirit of wisdom and revelation” is just another title for Holy Spirit.

- Just like Jesus IS called the Son of God AND Son of Man (titles). Savior, redeemer (titles), sacrifice, King (titles)
- The Holy Spirit is called our comforter (John 14). He is called our teacher and guide. (John 16). He is the who convicts and convinces (John 16)
- AND He is the Spirit of wisdom and revelation.
  - He is the one who brings wisdom and revelation.

### And what does “wisdom and revelation” mean?

- What KIND of wisdom? And revelation of WHAT?

- 1 Cor. 2:4-7,9-16 (NKJV)

**4** And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of **human wisdom**, but in demonstration of the **Spirit and of power**, **5** that your faith should **not be in the wisdom of men** but in the **power** of God. **6** However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet **not** the wisdom of this age...”

**“7** But we speak the **wisdom of God** in a **mystery**, the **hidden wisdom** which God ordained before the ages for our glory...”

- The hidden wisdom, Paul calls “a mystery”.
- Revelation is necessary for the mystery to be understood. It needs to be REVEALED.
- Paul is speaking **specifically** about God’s redemptive plan here — God’s plan of sending Jesus to redeem humanity. That is the MYSTERIOUS WISE plan that he is referring to.
- **9** It is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”
- God’s mysterious plan of redemption of how Messiah would come through the line of King David, and be born of a virgin, and suffer a criminal’s death, and rise from the dead in order to bring His people into relationship with Him, both Jews **and Gentiles** which is part of the mystery, I’m sure, for Paul who was as Jewish and religious as you could get.
- THIS PLAN of redemption was HIDDEN. No eye could see it. No ear could hear it.
  - Everything of God is hidden, He says here. Not just God’s redemptive plan, but ALL OF GOD’S Plans are HIDDEN. Nobody knows what they they are.
- **10 BUT GOD HAS REVEALED** them to us through **His Spirit**.
- “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” **BUT GOD HAS REVEALED** them to us through **His Spirit**.”
- The wise mysterious plans of God are hidden, BUT the Spirit has revealed them to us. The wise mysterious plans of God are hidden **UNTIL** the Spirit reveals them to us.
- **“For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11** For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. **12** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world,

but the Spirit who is from God, **that we might know** the things that have been freely given to us by God.”

- **What KIND of wisdom, and Revelation of WHAT?**

- The kind of wisdom and revelation that unveils God’s mysterious and wise plans for those who love Him.
- This is not the kind of wisdom to know which school I should send my kids to or which job offer I should accept (God certainly does give that kind of wisdom too), but in our passage today, Paul is talking about wisdom that reveals the heart and plan of God.
- It’s the kind of wisdom that Paul will speak of in **Ephesians 3:10** when he’s say that God’s redemptive plan exposed the “MANIFOLD WISDOM” of God.
  - Literally in the greek it means the “multi-facetted wisdom of God”.
  - **That is the kind of wisdom that Paul is talking about here.**

**So, Our glorious Father is the giver. And the gift is the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of wisdom and revelation), and what is the whole point of all of this? What is THE GOAL of the gift being given.**

**THE GOAL:** The knowledge of God

- **Vs. 17**
- **“I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.”**

In the knowledge of Him.

NLT: **“... that you might grow in your knowledge of God.”**

- What kind of revelation? The kind of revelation that reveals God’s mysterious wise redemptive plan, But to what END? **To the knowledge of God.**
  - The end goal of God’s mysterious and wise plan of redemption is that those who are redeemed would know him.
  - **Specifically, in the** “epignosis” of him - the greek word, for “experiential knowledge”.
  - Knowledge that goes beyond understanding God with the mind, to **experiencing** Him with the heart. (epignosis)
  - The greek words for knowledge: epignosis (verb form: epignosko) and then gnosis (verb form: gnosko). Both words have the same meaning of:
    - Knowledge that leads to relationship (epignosis, epignosko, gnosis, gnosko)
    - We must use the mind YES! (Knowing God is not just having some esoteric, external experience with God. )
    - Knowing him experientially involves us knowing the TRUTH of who God is, and the TRUTH of who God is is revealed to us in the word of God, which requires the MIIND to comprehend.
    - HOWEVER, it can’t stop there because the WORD of God is not just scripture. The word of God is a person. Jesus IS THE WORD (John 1).

- See, you can have a purely cerebral, no-experience-required, relationship with the Bible, but you can't do that with Jesus.
- You can't just know ABOUT Jesus. You gotta KNOW Jesus.
- That's what Paul is praying here that for the epignosis of God. Paul KNEW God with the mind, but when he met Jesus, He was brought into an experiential knowing of Him. And so:
- ***Put the following on it's own slide:***
- **Paul is praying that our glorious Father would give to us the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, in order that we would have deep meaningful relationship with Him.**
- Jer. 31 God speaking about a new covenant that He will eventually make with Israel.
- The OLD covenant was a covenant of law, but this new covenant would be a covenant of grace.
- The new covenant would not be a covenant of rules and regulations. The new covenant is a covenant of love and relationship.
- **Jeremiah 31:31, 32-34 (CSB):**
- "Look, the days are coming" says the Lord—"when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah... this is the covenant I will make... "I will put my teaching within them and write it on their hearts. "I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will one teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all **know** me, from the least to the greatest of them"—this is the Lord's declaration. "For I will forgive their iniquity and never again remember their sin."
- **For they all will KNOW me. The new covenant is not a covenant of rules and regulations, but of love and relationship.**
- This is covenant that Jesus purchased with his blood and put into affect when He died on the cross. What He purchased was **access to intimacy**.
- "No longer will each one teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, '**Know the Lord,**' for they will all **know** me, from the least to the greatest of them."
- This word "know" in the Hebrew is the word "Yawdah".
  - Personal, intimate, relationship.
- This is what Jesus purchased on the cross.
- Jesus didn't pay your **tuition** fees to make a **student** who would learn ABOUT God. He paid your **adoption** fees to make a **child** who would be **KNOWN by God**.
- When the veil was torn in two he didn't give you access to information. He gave you access to intimacy.
- What he purchased was relationship.
- Yahdaw = intimacy.
- **What Jesus purchased with his blood and inaugurated with his death, was a covenant of intimate, loving, gracious, relationship.**

- And what Paul is saying is that The Holy Spirit - the Spirit of wisdom and revelation — is the one who unveils to us God’s mysterious and wise redemptive plan to bring us into this intimate, loving, and gracious relationship.
- He is the one who reveals the pathways into the knowledge (epignosis), experiential, knowledge of God.
- Shows the **the method by which** we can intimately know God — **It is by the work and power of the Holy Spirit.**
- Because God is **unfathomable**, which means that in our fallen state, He is **unknowable** by the human heart.
- The reason God has to give us a heart transplant in order to KNOW him is because the unredeemed heart CANNOT know God.
- **And if you are a follower of Jesus then this is what’s happened to you.** You have been given a new heart, a heart that was put in you with the end of goal not of knowing **about** God, but actually KNOWING God in deep, meaningful, loving, gracious, intimate, relationship.
- **That’s** what Paul is talking about here. He’s talking about diving in the depths of God.
- Ankle deep... Paul is saying, THERE’S MORE Christian!
- Paul is not praying for non Christians here to know God. He is praying for **Christians** to KNOW God.
- He is praying for people like US— that our glorious Father would give US the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that we may EXPERIENTIALLY KNOW HIM.
- We were created and saved for THIS. To know God like THIS. THIS is what Jesus died for. So we could KNOW God in deep, meaningful, living, breathing relationship like a mother knows her children.
- **THIS is God’s good and perfect will for you today.**
  - Some of us have been stuck in a mostly intellectual relationship with God for much of our lives. You may not even be that smart. But your relationship with God is still mostly in the head.
  - *Peter and walking on water.*
  - I know it seems dangerous to step out of the logical, safe, intellectual, practical way of living and relating to God. Why would you leave a perfectly good boat?
  - But Jesus calls us out into the waters of intimacy.
  - And it may feel unsafe, unstable, and unknown, but that’s why we’re called to walk by FAITH, and not by sight. “But the boat is safe.”
  - **Jesus isn’t calling you to safety. Jesus is calling you to intimacy.**
  - He wants to make His home in your heart.

- I know it's **feels** dangerous to let him — to be that deeply known by Him, but if we could just see that it IS JESUS who is calling us out onto the water, then we would begin to realize that the **dangerous** thing is actually to stay IN THE BOAT, because Jesus isn't in there. He's on the water.
- **Chain/Seatbelt Vision**
- Jesus is inviting you to step out of the boat of **perceived** safety, and step into His arms.
- God didn't adopt you as his child and then bring you into his house to make you live in the foyer, or the living room, or even our own bedroom.
- The door to his master suite is always open wide, and when Jesus cried out "It is finished" and the veil was torn in two, the Father said, "COME ON IN! My door is always open. The light is always on. I'm always awake and I'm always waiting for you."
- **Hear the voice of the Father, saying,**
  - *"You are my beloved. And before the world was formed, I knew you and loved you. I gave my son so you could be with me. I know you screwed up. I know you've been far from me. I don't care. I've thrown your sin into the deepest ocean, to remember it no more."*
- **You are not an orphan. You're not a foster kid. You're not a visitor. You belong in His house because Jesus finalized your adoption on the cross. You are a child of God.**
- Today He is inviting you to intimacy with Him. Today He is inviting you to feast at His banqueting table.
- THIS is the knowledge of God that Paul speaking. And THIS is what pray the Holy Spirit brings us into.
- My prayer for us:
  - **"I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him."**